

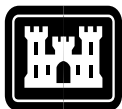
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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

Volume 37, No. 6

Yankee Engineer

April 2001

Powerful Nor'easter hits New England, District prepared for the challenge

A major Nor'easter bombarded New England Mar. 5-7 with one to three feet of heavy, wet snow, sustained winds of 30 to 40 mph with gusts up to 50-70 mph, and storm surges upward to 25-45 feet. Over 80,000 residents were reported without power during the storm. State government was shut down. Courts and town halls were closed, as were most businesses.

The New England District, in a rare move, released non-essential personnel early on Mar. 5 and kept them home Mar. 6. Despite the reduction in employees during the storm, the District was ready to assist the six-state region.

"In its primary emergency response mode, the Corps of Engineers can provide a myriad of services during and following significant storm events and other natural disasters," said Colonel Brian E. Osterndorf, New England District Engineer. "These include supplying sandbags to states and communities, furnishing potable water and ice, providing emergency power generators, preparing damage survey reports and estimates, and assisting in repairing flood control facilities."

During the storm, the District issued 30,000 sandbags to Massachu-

setts communities, including 20,000 for Boston and 10,000 each for Gloucester and Amesbury.

The Emergency Operations Center was activated at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Mar. 4 and was on duty around the clock until Mar. 7.

"During the Nor'easter, personnel from the New England District staffed both our own Emergency Operations Center in Concord, Mass., and the Massachusetts Emergency Manage-

ment Agency bunker in Framingham to provide technical assistance and disaster relief advice. Our field folks were also on hand at the hurricane protection barriers across New Bedford, Mass. and Stamford, Conn. harbors," Col. Osterndorf noted.

The New Bedford Hurricane Barrier, was operated early in the morning of March 7, maintaining harbor levels at 3.8 feet, while outside the barrier the

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Photos by Mark McNerney

The city of Boston picks up sandbags from the District during the March Nor'easter.

Yankee Voices

Ranger John Asseng
Surry Mountain Lake



Congratulations

...to **Christine Godfrey** on her selection as Chief Regulatory Division.

...to **Eva Marie D'Antuono** on her selection as Deputy for Small Business.

...to **Sue Douglas**, Public Affairs, on her retirement Apr. 3. Sue leaves the Corps with over 36 years of federal service.

...to **Claire Sullivan**, Basin Assistant at the Lower Connecticut River Basin office, who was selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for April. According to the citation, Claire "always pitching in to accomplish the work of the Corps in this Basin, from preparing budgets and tracking funds to staffing exhibits."

...to **Chiway Hsiung, Debbie Gabrielson, Rick Casano, Lisa Greene, Ed Mills, Jim Conway and Steve Chase** were named the WE Committee's April Team of the Month award for completing work on the modification to the barracks contract at the Army's Soldier Systems Center. **Ken Paton** is the Project Manager.

Rhoades thanks District for work

Dear Ken (Paton),

I want to personally thank you for all of your efforts to deliver the Natick barracks to our soldiers. I know how challenging this task was, and I commend you for the extraordinary work you did in leading the Project Delivery Team. Nothing is more important to me than providing our soldiers a quality place to live and work, and your skills and patience in overcoming several obstacles to provide this means a lot to me. I know you had to work through the problems of terminating a contractor and then bringing on a new contractor to complete the project. You were able to do this, while keeping the Project Team oriented on quality, value and safety, and while dealing with an increasingly more demanding customer. Additionally, you were able to complete the project much sooner than could have been expected, and in the end, by meeting and working with the customer continuously, you made them ecstatic about the result. You have excelled and I am very grateful for the way you have served our Army and our soldiers.

I hope that not every project you manage will be as exciting as this one, but I do know that I can count on you for superb project management and high quality service whatever the circumstances.

Essayons,

Brig. Gen. M. Stephen Rhoades
Division Engineer

Words worth repeating

The real judges of your character aren't your neighbors, your relatives, or even the people you play bridge with. The folks who really know you are waiters, waitresses, and clerks.

-Katherine Piper

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

- Dorothy Nevell

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>

District EngineerCol. Brian E. Osterndorf
Chief, Public AffairsLarry Rosenberg



EditorAnn Marie R. Harvie
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione

Commander's Corner:

Does Having A Vision Really Make A Difference?

by Col. Brian E. Osterndorf
District Engineer



There is an old saying that goes something like: "In the Land of The Blind, He who has One Good Eye is King."

The modern corollary to that is: "In the Very Demanding, Rapidly Changing, Politically Sensitive Environment we operate in, the Organization with the Best Vision most

clearly Sees the Way to Success."

There are three components to consider in any discussion of the Vision. The first involves Vision Creation, which unfortunately, many organizations see as the final objective rather than the starting point. A good Vision provides context for all of the important strategic directions an organization must follow, and should be a living document, periodically updated to ensure that goals and objectives remain current and viable. As we have discussed already in several other forums, our previous Corps Vision, which has served us well for a number of years, has been refreshed and will be delivered to you shortly.

Tied closely to Vision Creation is the notion of Vision Buy-In. The purpose of distributing copies of the Vision to everyone is to make sure each of you knows what the purpose, mission and goals are. Your support of the Vision is vital. Ideas like "One Door to the Corps"; "Just Do It" and our core values are derived from the Vision and are now fundamental aspects of what we are all about.

But the bottom line is always results. The questions of whether a Vision serves its purpose, and whether the organization has completely bought into the directions the Vision provides are ultimately determined by looking at whether important organizational accomplishments ensue. Has the Vision made us better?

As you know, we have been working the strategic planning business very hard for the last two years, and I have used this column to keep you informed of how we have gone about conducting our efforts. Now I want to crow a little about results from the efforts of the Strategic Planning Group

and the various PATs that have been established.

One of the first initiatives was to establish a Council of Deputies, to more involve division and branch deputies in the business of the district and to task them with specific projects. Their first mission was consistent with the Vision concept of putting people first, and addressed the most significant issue I heard from you – How can we make the workplace a more enjoyable place to be? The outcome of this process was the creation of the WE Committee, under the able leadership of Jim Crawford (one of the deputies), and I don't have to tell you how remarkably successful those efforts have been.

Our Outreach PAT coordinated training for many of our District employees, and recently we conducted our first congressional staff seminar, an event that greatly advanced

'A good Vision provides context for all of the important strategic directions an organization must follow, and should be a living document, periodically updated to ensure that goals and objectives remain current and viable.'

- Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer

what these key customers know about the Corps and our missions.

Our Contracting PAT investigated the way we procure Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) contracts and mapped out that entire process, and then trained our District project managers. Consequently, this District's ability to plan acquisition strategies and procure quality contracts is one of the best in federal government. We also just conducted our second Small Business mini-conference, speaking directly to targeted small business A-E firms to enhance their abilities to participate with us.

Our Product Delivery PAT has greatly improved our execution of the Project Management Business Process. Our Project Review Boards are much improved and Project Delivery Teams perform better.

Our Reshaping Culture PAT has done a great job communicating the concepts of contingency needs and orienting many of you to the opportunities to gain new

Continued on Page 11

New vision, new mission, awards highlight town meeting

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, held a Town Meeting Mar. 27 in the cafeteria. The Town Meeting gave the colonel a chance to address his employees on the Corps Vision, Operation Swift Builder, and also to recognize employees.

Col. Osterndorf discussed Lt. Gen. Flowers' new, refreshed Corps Vision. "It's very short, and very direct," he said. "It emphasizes people, process, and communications – the three hallmarks of what we're all about."

According to Col. Osterndorf, the message will appeal to everybody within and outside of the Corps. He said that the District needs to tell people about the good things that the organization does. "Sometimes we see ourselves in the paper only in the context of having to talk about bad news," he said.

Col. Osterndorf said that he would like to see everyone proudly wearing the Corps of Engineers T-shirt, which has the New England District logo on it.

The District Engineer also indicated that the refreshed Corps Vision is consistent with the New England District's current Strategic Planning. "It matches up very well," he said. "The types of things that we have started to work on and the types of objectives that we're looking to accomplish in the next several years are still very consistent with the refreshed vision."

The colonel said that the refreshed Vision is going to be integrated in a single campaign plan being done at concurrent levels at concurrent times. "So the Corps Headquarters, the Division headquarters, and our District headquarters are going to put the how-tos into one plan that will integrate from top to bottom," he said.

Col. Osterndorf then talked about Strategic Communications and showed a video of Lt. Gen. Flowers testifying before the Environmental Committee in the U.S. Senate about the Corps of Engineers. In the video, he responded



Photo by Mark McInerney

Col. Osterndorf addresses the crowd.

to some allegations recently brought on in the media.

How the Corps is going to build a capable workforce was the next subject. Col. Osterndorf said that it is a two-pronged approach. The first is to identify within the organization where the needs are. He said that there should be some development of a career path that over the years with training the employee should be able to move to. Col. Osterndorf talked about the Individual Development Plan and said that IDPs are good for the District. "We can find a way to resource your abilities to get to where you want to be inside the organization and make sure it is good match with the type of skills we need here to be able to do all the missions that we have, plus the business of developing a capable workforce," he said.

The colonel said that the District is going to start to look at how to do the business, the training resources, and how to get the most of those resources.

The last topic that Col. Osterndorf discussed was Operation Swift Builder. He said that Operation Swift Builder is as much the District's mission as Regulatory and Flood Control. "The mission is to provide to the Nation a field contingency force of engineers that allows for our soldiers who are out there ac-

complishing their many missions in accordance with our national policy," he said.

Col. Osterndorf gave a scenario of an army squadron and explained why the District is performing this mission.

Lt. Col. John Rovero continued the discussion by detailing how Operation Swift Builder would be implemented, to include field force engineering and the type of positions that need to be filled. Lt. Col. Rovero also discussed the incentives that would be given to those who volunteered to be a team member on Operation Swift Builder. "The reason for an incentive is this – if you volunteer to do this, you are volunteering and committing yourselves to being ready to go," he said. "And being ready to go involves a little bit of commitment on your part to have your personal affairs in order. There is a cost to being ready."

Lt. Col. Rovero said that there will be systems in place to support families of volunteers as well as backfill systems to cover the work the volunteers will leave behind. "In the end we all have jobs that we have to get done, both here and over there," he said.

Lt. Col. Rovero entertained some questions, then concluded his discussion.

During the awards portion of the Town Meeting, Farrell McMillan awarded Karen Schofield the 2000 Cost Engineer of the Year award. This year, according to Farrell, Chris Lindsay will be New England District's nominee for the honor in 2001.

Jim Crawford, WE Committee Chair, named George Norton the WE Committee Employee of the Month for March. He named Mike Elliott, Stephen Kelley, William Walker, Mary Donovan, Tim Maynard, Juan Reyes, Bruce Zawacki, Barbara Ingersoll, Andrea Pittman, and Mike Russo as the March Team of the Month. All awardees received t-shirts and certificates.

Continued on page 9

Women's History celebrated during District presentation

"Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision," was the Department of Defense's theme for the 2001 observance of National Women's History month.

In honor of the event, the Federal Women's Program sponsored a celebration Mar. 15 at 11 a.m. in the theatre. The guest speaker was Dr. Nadine Weidman.

Dr. Weidman said that it was a honor for her to talk about women in engineering. "Engineering began opening up to women in 1980, but it is still male dominated," she said.

Some of the reasons for this, according to Dr. Weidman, is that all professions have been slow to admit women; engineering more than any other profession is gendered male; and that women engineers have been stoic in the face of struggle. "Women thought that if they work harder and get more education, they would be accepted," said Dr. Weidman.

Women have been in the engineering field since the late 19th Century, according to Dr. Weidman. "Women were able to get into engineering during this period through family connections," she said. "Through their fathers, brothers, and husbands they were able to get into the field."

Dr. Weidman cited several female engineers, to include Emily Roebling and Lillian Gilbreth who ran their husband's engineering businesses, but never received credit for their work. In the 1870's universities started opening up Engineer Education to women. According to Dr. Weidman, the opportunities did not always allow women to become qualified for engineering positions. "Their academic excellence did not always translate into jobs," said Dr. Weidman. "They had little chance for hands-on experience."

The guest speaker also indicated that professional engineering societies would either not allow women to become members or would give them a



Dr. Nadine Weidman explains a chart as part of her discussion.

secondary membership with no voting rights.

Engineering jobs opened up for women during World War I and II, but these jobs were only temporary and when the soldiers came home, they reclaimed the jobs, according to Dr. Weidman.

Dr. Weidman said that the tide began to change for women through a combination of the women's rights movement and affirmative action. "It opened up people's eyes and allowed women to get a foothold in the engineering profession," she said.

In the past 20 years the percentage of women in the engineering profession has risen from four to ten, according to Dr. Weidman. "Women are a majority in MIT's engineering course,"

she said.

The guest speaker ended her presentation by taking questions and answers. Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Engineer, and Barbara Blumeris, FWP Manager presented Dr. Weidman with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation for her discussion.

Following Dr. Weidman's presentation a select group of District employees highlighted the important women in their lives. Kim Kaminski-Donaher talked about Betty Schuler, who was the Director of the National CPOC in Washington, D.C. Mary Byers presented a story of Luise Shields, Mary's mother, world traveler, visionary, and proud American. Karen Adams discussed Dr. Jean C. Avery, a pediatrician who delivered over 3,000 babies. Lt. Col. John Rovero, talked about Dorothy Burns, his first female supervisor. Farrell McMillan discussed the most important women in his life – Dona McMillan, his wife of 32 years.

Crystal Gardner served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. Barbara Blumeris, introduced the speaker, and Lt. Col. Rovero welcomed the audience.

Dr. Weidman is a postdoctoral research scholar and tutorial assistant in the Department of History and Science at Harvard University and an instructor at the Harvard Extension School. She is married to Joseph Ferarri, Con-Ops.



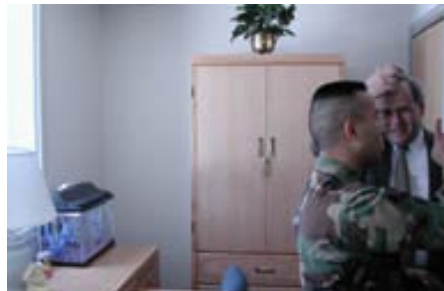
After the program, the FWP sponsored a post celebration reception for the audience.

Photos by Mark McInerney



Photos by Chiway Hsiung

Top: Ken Paton tries the new foosball table. Right: Photos of the newly renovated barrack, dining room and cafeteria



Refurbishing project celebrated with ribbon-cutting

The New England District, and their customer, the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command in Natick, Mass., celebrated the opening of the facility's newly renovated barracks, kitchen and dining hall with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Mar. 19.

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, Commanding General, U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, and Brig. Gen. Philip Mattox, Deputy for Acquisition and Readiness, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

According to Ken Paton, Project

Manager, the barracks were outdated and in need of renovation. "They were livable, but not up to today's standards," he said. "They really needed upgrading."

Soldiers were housed elsewhere while the work was being performed.

The \$3 million project began in September 1999 and was completed last February. When work initially commenced, extensive demolition gutted the inside of the barracks so that only the exterior masonry walls, concrete floors and interior structural columns remained.

From that point, new room floor plans were laid out within the confines of the existing elements. Each new suite, typically consisting of sufficient space for two soldiers includes two carpeted bedroom areas, each with a bed, a desk, and an armoire; a new ceramic tile bathroom area and a small kitchenette area which contains a stainless steel sink, a microwave and a refrigerator/freezer.

A feature of the new rooms are the large closets each soldier has. While the windows were replaced in only one of the two wings, each of the new



Photos by Sarah Underhill, U.S. Soldier Systems Center

Top: Natick celebrated the opening of the dining room with a cake. Right: Brig. Gen. Philip Mattox, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, and Col. Brian E. Osterndorf cut the ribbon to celebrate the completion of the refurbishing work on the Natick Barracks, the dining area and the cafeteria.



barracks rooms received light blocking shades and local temperature controls for heat and cooling. "This in particular is a significant improvement over the portable window air conditioning units," said Ken.

Also in support of the soldiers new living areas is a completely new electrical system, fire detection and alarm system and sprinkler system.

The surety contracted with CTA/Harvey to complete the renovation project after the initial contractor defaulted. Rodco-Brandt was then contracted for \$160,000 to provide all the furnishings to include beds, desks, armoires, microwaves, refrigerators, and lamps.

In addition, Rodco-Brandt provided a pool table and foosball table for the dayroom and some artwork.

The two-wing building, which houses approximately 54 soldiers, is also equipped with a kitchen and dining hall, which Brig. Gen. Mattox requested the District to also refurbish in November 2000.

"The kitchen and dining room area really was in deteriorated condition and it needed renovation," explained Ken. "The Base Commander was able to find funding and asked if the District would do a fast track modification to include it in the project," said Ken.

Brig. Gen. Mattox was very pleased with the result, according to Ken. "Brig. Gen. Mattox was very complimentary of the Corps and the way the project came out," he said. "The quality of the work is very good. The barracks renovation was really an important project to the general because of its direct impact on the soldiers."

During the ribbon cutting, BG Mattox acknowledged Col. Osterndorf, Ken Paton, Jim Conway, Steve Chase, and Chiway Hsiung.

Other District employees who worked on the project were Molly McCabe, Joe Redlinger, Rachael Raposa, Deborah Gabrielson, Rick Casano, Lisa Green, and Ed Mills.



Photo by Sarah Underhill, U.S. Soldier Systems Center

District signs agreement with Natick

The New England District and the U.S. Army Soldiers System Center in Natick, Mass., entered into a partnering agreement Mar. 19 for the District to provide needed resources to maintain and increase efficiency of operations at the Center while reducing overall cost.

The agreement, signed by Brig. Gen. Philip Mattox, Base Commander, and Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, designated the District manager of the base operations contract work.

"We augment their workforce," said Ken Paton, Project Manager. "Currently, they don't have enough resources to handle all the base operations. They do as much as they can and the additional work is handled by 18 different contracts. We're going to consolidate them into one indefinite delivery quantity contract (IDQC)."

Base operations contract work consists of snowplowing, cutting grass, and maintaining boilers.

The District has advertised the announcement in the Commerce Business Daily, according to Ken. "We hope to award a contract that would be up to \$2 million a year over a period of five years," he said. "We hope to award it in August."

This is not the first time that the New England District has performed work for the Center.

The District had recently completed the renovation of the Center's barracks, kitchen and dining hall when the agreement was signed.

Prior work the District performed for the Center included managing AE contracts.

"We have nurtured a good relationship with them," said Ken. "We've gone out of our way to give them the best service possible."



Powerful Nor'easter hits New England

Continued from Page 1

ocean reached 4.8 feet. An estimated \$90,000 in damages were prevented during this operation. The Stamford Hurricane Barrier, which was also staffed during the first two days of the storm, was operated three times during high tide cycles on Mar. 5 and 6.

Flood control projects built by the Corps keep coastal New England cities and towns safe from the crashing sea waves. One such project at Roughan's Point in Revere, Mass., was a great help to residents under siege from the sea.

"The Army Corps' revetment project seems to be working to minimize the wave action," said Revere Mayor Tom Ambrosio during the storm. "A lot of work has been done on this sea wall, particularly down the other end at Roughan's Point, which was an area that historically flooded consistently in any kind of storm event. The Army Corps spent approximately \$12 million dollars on the revetment project."

After the storm, Revere resident Paul Daikos purchased a full page newspaper ad in the "Revere Advocate" thanking the Corps. "Thank you Army Corps of Engineers for a great job of correcting the flooding problem at Roughan's Point and Rocky Beach," read the ad. "Because of you, during the Nor'easter millions of dollars were saved by the many

property owners. The expertise of the Army Corps of Engineers and the many elected officials and resident who made the flood control project such a success."

During the storm, all Corps flood control reservoirs were at normal levels with maximum flood control storage available.

"Technical experts from the Corps will visit locations throughout the region to evaluate coastal flood and erosion damage with an eye to possible future federal assistance," Colonel Osterndorf added.

Communities where visits are planned include Milford, New Haven and Westport, Conn.; Saco and Wells, Maine; Hull, Marshfield, Revere, Salisbury, Sandwich, Saugus, Scituate and Westport, Mass.; Seabrook, N.H.; and Westerly, R.I.

Corps personnel who were on duty in the EOC during the time of the storm were Rachel Fisher, Ed Mills and

Ruth Kitowicz. Pat Tornifoglio and Dave Schafer were the liaison officers with the Mass. Emergency Management Agency.

District employees who operated the Stamford Hurricane Barrier beginning Mar. 4 through Mar. 6 for a total of 40 hours were Chris Way, Steve Patchkofsky, and Chris Cogley. Those at the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier were Bob Rousseau and Ken Holstein. Alliance Security was also on duty 24 hours a day at Concord Park on Mar. 5 and 6.



Photo by Mark McInerney

Senior staff and other emergency personnel hold a meeting on the Nor'easter.



Photo by C.J. Allen

Looking for a few good engineers

Dianna Rider, Heather Sullivan, Dave Schafer, and Kim Kaminski-Donaher answer questions about employment with the Corps of Engineers during the Engineer's Week career night held at the Sheraton in Boston Mar. 26. The Public Affairs Office coordinated the District's Engineer's Week activities during the event.

District recreation sites set to open in May

by Sue Douglas
Public Affairs

Recreation areas at the 31 federal flood control reservoirs in New England and the Cape Cod Canal operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are set to open to the public in mid-May.

"Most areas offer a wide range of recreational opportunities, including picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, and hunting, while a few also provide facilities for overnight camping," said Richard C. Carlson, Chief of Construction/Operations.

Fishing is permitted at all federal flood control reservoirs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. The only requirement to fish the lakes is a state license and adherence to state regulations. Trout, bass,

pickerel, horned pout and perch are available at most reservoirs, while a few areas have their own specialties. Many of the areas are stocked by state fish and game agencies to provide some of the finest fishing in the region.

Developed facilities, including beaches, picnic areas, athletic fields and campgrounds are available at a number of locations. Many are open to individuals or small groups free of charge on a first come, first served basis.

A nominal fee is charged to reserve covered picnic shelters. Large groups may be required to obtain user permits for a small fee.

Brochures about recreational opportunities, including directions to each site, are available in the Public Affairs Office. Please contact Sally Rigione for more information.

District Engineer holds Town Meeting

Continued from Page 4

George Norton received a parking space of his choice for the month.

Col. Osterndorf presented Bob Abbott and Jennifer Flanagan with Minuteman Response Certificates for their work during the Cape Cod Canal Tall Ships event last July.

The District Engineer presented certificates from the Huntsville District. Maurice Beaudoin, Mary Dunn and Tony Riccio of Roy F. Weston, were the recipients.

He also presented certificates and engraved pens to the Waterbury Dam Team for their work on the Vermont Dam. The team included Kate Atwood, Deanna Eliseo, Ed Fallon, Mark Geib, Ed O'Leary, Mike Penko, Rich Ring, Karen Umbrell, and Brian Waz. North Atlantic Division named the Waterbury Dam team Division Team of the

Year.

The final award presented, by Joe Bocchino, Executive Assistant, was a certificate of appreciation to Col. Osterndorf from Dr. Joseph Westphal, Acting Secretary of the Army. He received the plaque for his dedication, hard work, humanity and friendship. "I have greatly appreciated your support and assistance with many difficult and often times contentious issues," read the plaque. "You have always demonstrated a sense of professionalism and practicality, and have allowed us to successfully address these very concerns. But most importantly, I am grateful for your friendship and personal trust. The Corps, the Army and the Nation are indeed lucky to have your service and the leadership you so aptly demonstrate every day in your command."

Sympathy

... to Engineering retiree **Fred Ravens**, and his wife, Public Affairs retiree **Catherine Ravens**, on the passing of their daughter, **Margaret Perkins**, Mar. 22. Mrs. Perkins is also survived by her husband, Winthrop Perkins, Jr., and their three children, George, Elizabeth, and Christopher. Condolences may be sent to the Ravens' at 17 Shoreview Ave., E. Falmouth, Mass. 02536. ...to the family of Cape Cod Canal retiree, **Ned G. Latimer**, who passed away Mar. 28. Mr. Latimer worked at the Corps in New England for 20 years and was a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Navy.

... to **Karen Martel**, Merrimack River Basin, on the passing of her grandmother, **Madeline Collister** of Waterbury, Conn., Apr. 3.

... to **Bill Herland**, Value Engineering, on the passing of his father, **Richard Herland**, Apr. 5.

... to the family of Engineering retiree **Joseph Shaughnessy**, who passed away Apr. 5. Mr. Shaughnessy was the Chief of the Mechanical Electrical section when he retired in the 1970's.

Welcome

Robert Blackwell	Con/Ops
Carol Charette	Eng/Plng
Laura Day	Con/Ops
Edward Frazetta	Con/Ops
Nancy Kelly	Eng/Plng
Clarina Rose	Con/Ops
Robert Tucker	Con/Ops
Michael Vissichelli	Con/Ops
Edwin Wise	PPMD
Tad Zebryk	Con/Ops

30 Second Commercials



John Winmill, Construction/Operations



My name is John Winmill and I am the Area Engineer in New England for Construction/Operations Division. I take great pride in leading a team of 48 construction residents, engineers, and construction

representatives as well as our administrative staffs, all of whom I consider to be the best of the best in the Corps of Engineers.

Our mission runs the gamut of construction activity. We support our military partners (Army, Air Force, Navy), active, reserve and National Guard, by providing construction oversight and management for new construction, operations and maintenance support and installation support as well as environmental remediation. We support the EPA and the six New England states in environmental mediation projects. Our teams provide oversight and management to a large Civil Works program, which includes flood control, shore protection, and dredging operations. Maintenance and repair

projects in New England's 30 flood control projects and the Cape Cod Canal are managed by our teams. Since assignment to NAD, our teams have supported our sister Districts in assisting with projects in New Jersey for Philadelphia District and sites in upstate New York for New York District. We are currently preparing to establish a resident office overseas.

The hallmark of our construction team is professional preparation and performance, the ability to team with our peers in Engineering, Project Management and Contracting and the provision of exceptional quality assurance to our customers. We deliver on time and within budget. We were party to two projects which received Hammer Awards recently.

Throughout our mission, "performance" is the operable word. My experience of ten years as a Corps of Engineers soldier and twenty-five years as a Corps civilian -- a total of 43 years in the construction industry -- has taught me there is nothing the Corps of Engineers cannot do because the people we attract are exceptional. I am proud of my association with the Corps and love working with the Corps team.

Kevin McKelvey, Resource Management



As a Staff Accountant in the Resource Management Office, I serve as the subject matter expert on a variety of Civil Works activities including EEO, HRO, and radio network facility accounts;

Quality Assurance Management Control Oversight for Finance and Accounting activities; Tort Claims; Electronic Funds Transfer/Direct Deposit; PCS Travel; 1099-MISC

Records; Collection; and Standard Operating Procedures.

I also serve as the Agency Program Coordinator (APC) for the Bank of America Government Travel Charge Card Program, am an EEO Counselor and often serve as Acting Finance and Accounting Officer in the absence of Ralph Mallardo. I recently served on the Mobility Ad Hoc Team in the development of the NAD Civilian Deployment Guide and more recently, the NAD Family Assistance Guide.

On a personal note, I am please to say that on April 7, 2001, I was re-elected to a second, three-year term on the Board of Selectmen in Burlington, Mass., where I currently serve as Vice Chairman.

How about you? The Yankee Engineer is seeking District employees to provide their 30 second commercial for publication in future issues. The Chief of Engineers has asked every Corps employee to develop 30 seconds worth of information that describes your role and how you provide quality service to the citizens of New England. If you have your commercial ready and would like to participate, please e-mail Ann Marie Harvie.

Safety Tips for driving in spring

April flowers mean driving in spring showers --and fog -- and maybe winter ice and snow in some areas of the country.

Drivers are in a cusp offering the worst road conditions of both seasons.

"Fortunately, rules are rules, and the first for safe driving in any kind of bad weather is to ask whether your trip is really necessary," said Justin McNaul, a spokesman for AAA Mid-Atlantic in Fairfax, Va.

He offered a battery of other safety tips when staying home isn't an option:

- Slow down and buckle up.
- Have your car checked and keep it in working order. Pay special attention to your engine, brakes and windshield washer and wipers. Check your tires regularly for tread wear and proper inflation.
- See and be seen. Turn on your headlights in bad weather. It's the smart thing to do -- and it's becoming the law in more and more states. Lights on is especially helpful if you drive gray- or silver-colored vehicles, which are hard to see in fog and cloudbursts.
- If you can't see, you probably can't be seen. If you wait out a cloudburst or other bad weather, use a rest stop, parking lot or other protected area. If you can't do that, pull over as far to the right as possible and keep your headlights and emergency flashers on.
- Always mind road conditions. Roadways may appear clear, but glare ice and ice layers under snow can impair braking and steering. Rain can turn pavement slippery, especially at its onset. Fog patches and heavy showers can hide stopped vehicles and road hazards ahead.
- Allow eight- to 12-second intervals between you and the vehicle in front in snow and ice; less may be OK in other bad weather. Start counting off seconds when the car in front of you passes a fixed landmark on the road. You're al-

ways too close if you reach the landmark in less than a two-count. You may be comfortable, but the other guy might not be.

-If your vehicle skids, try not to panic. Ease off the accelerator. If driving a manual transmission vehicle, leave the car in gear and let the engine help slow you.

-Forget what Dad said about pumping your brakes rhythmically in a skid. If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes, apply and hold firm pressure. If you have regular brakes, use "threshold braking" by applying them firmly and backing off only when you feel them begin to lock.

-Steer into the skid. If the rear of your vehicle is coming around on the left, steer left. If from the right, steer right. Once control returns, apply gas gently and resume course.

-Higher vehicle speeds and standing water of any depth on the road can lead to hydroplaning. That is, your tires literally rise off the road and ride like skates on ice. Your best defense is to slow down and avoid the problem. Your only defense after it's too late is to regain control by easing off the gas.

-Make sure your spare tire and jack are serviceable and in the trunk along with an emergency road kit of tools and accessories such as warning flares or reflective triangles, jumper cables, a flashlight and spare batteries.

If you're in an area still prone to wintry conditions, include a small snow shovel, snow brush, ice scraper, a blanket for warmth, and a bag of cat litter to spread for tire traction. Cell phones are handy.

-Keep the gas tank full and consider stashing some snacks and drinks, too. You might need to run your engine for heat and power and to eat and keep your spirits up should you be stranded -- or stopped in traffic for hours because someone caused an accident up ahead. *(Armed Forces Press Service)*

Commander's Corner

Continued from page 3

experiences and better promotion potential. We are leaning forward to provide teams to support the Operation Swift Builder mission we talked about at the last townhall meeting.

Our Business Process PAT has instituted several efficiency measures, such as establishing the electronic library, streamlining the FEDEX procedures and consolidating our copier requirements. All told, these efficiency measures saved us \$250,000 last year, and we are well on our way to doing the same this year.

Our newest PATs, dealing with our information technology plan, improving diversity in the workforce, devising a training and development strategy, and encouraging "the next generation" to join and stay in our workforce are already hard at work to make significant contributions.

The point is that these results, and the several others that I haven't mentioned here, are only possible if there is a good set of directions to orient on, and a unity of purpose that moves the entire workforce towards accomplishing strategic goals.

The best results are not those that emanate solely from one or two specifically organized teams, but those that are derived from wholesale involvement from the entire workforce, as a natural part of the way they approach their jobs.

The May edition of Yankee Engineer will focus on our refreshed Vision because you can make a difference in what the New England District will be.

Dredging up the past . . .



Ranger Viola Bramel plays a game with a group of children at West Hill Dam as part of the Interpretive Program in this August 1992 photo.

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